

016

Nearly ten thousand use help number

According to the latest statistics, nearly 10,000 women have used the specially dedicated telephone number, 016, to seek assistance and/or report incidences of domestic violence.

Callers to the number can also avail themselves of judicial and welfare advice and assistance free of charge, and the number and call will not show up on phone bills to guarantee the security and safety of those making the calls. Callers will also be told of economic help available, the nearest shelter to the caller, and there is also a fully qualified team on standby to help

callers in Spanish, English, and French.

The line, in operation now for just over two years, is open 24 hours a day, every day of the year. The highest number of calls received have come from Madrid, Andalucía, Catalonia, Valencia and the Canaries, where 9,229 calls were made since the service began. Nationally the number has been dialled 153,279 times. According to the Ministry of Equality there are also 962 Canarian women registered as victims of domestic violence with mobile telephone access when needed. This additional service gives women at risk direct and rapid contact with a response



LOS CRISTIANOS

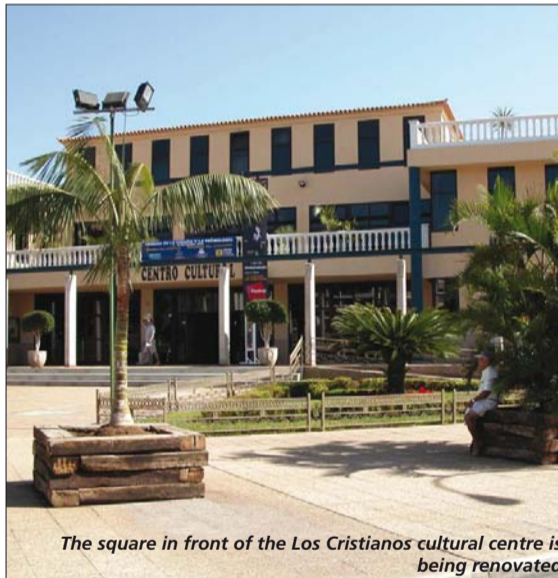
Plaza del Pescador

The square in front of the Los Cristianos cultural centre is in line for a one million euro face lift.

The Plaza del Pescador and surrounding streets will be repaved and new lighting installed, and according to the council, work will begin soon with the plans already having received the full backing of local residents and traders, who were informed of the decisions on the original project prior to approval. Walls along the relevant streets – Avenida Juan Carlos I and Amsterdam

and Calle Eloy García – will be rebuilt, new street furniture will be installed and work will include an overhaul for the children's playground in the Avenida Amsterdam.

According to the council, the principal reason behind the upgrade, given that this is along the main entrance to the town, is to provide a new focus for the centre at its axis. Ramps will also be installed here in the local police and citizen advice centre. A number of pergolas will be erected as well to provide shade in the plaza, as well as benches, and wastepaper bins.



The square in front of the Los Cristianos cultural centre is being renovated

HOUSE PRICES

Canaries best bet

House prices dropped all over Spain in 2009 but the Islands' markets were the firmest.

At national level the average house price fell 6.6 per cent last year, but the drop in the Canaries was just 3.8 per

cent with many special and unique developments or well restored traditional homes maintaining their value. Prices in Spain overall have dropped an average of 14.8 per cent since December 2007 and the latest figures issued by Tinsa, specialists in pricing homes,

would seem to indicate a slowdown in the price reductions experienced since the middle of last year. The highest price reductions in 2009 were seen in the Mediterranean, with an average drop of 7.6 per cent in the value of property there.

News in Brief

Gando airport

International terrorism

• An article in local daily *Canarias 7*, reputed to quote information from a Spanish National Intelligence Centre report, claims that Al Qaeda terrorist trainers are using Gando airport in Gran Canaria to reach Mauritania.

Whilst local export advisors insist that the country has always been a recommended associate, the report claims that imams and leaders of the fundamentalist Muwahiddun section of the Islam faith (linked by some to Al Qaeda) are using the island airport as a stop off on flights to Mauritania because they can get there quicker and with fewer controls. The security services have lists of suspects, but none of them are breaking Spanish law. "They travel to guide the thousands of recruits that are trained in the bases that Al Qaeda has made ready in the desert with the help of the Bedouin tribes," alleges the report.

TITSA

New bus route

• A new service will link Valle Guerra with Tejina. La Laguna and the island council recently signed the agreement to put the new line into service for five years at a cost of €4 million, €2.9 million to come from the council and €1.1 from the Cabildo. The cost includes the price of a new bus.

Commerce

Craft success

• The variety and quality of the local craftwork was fully vindicated with the successful Craft fairs held in the metropolitan area over the holidays.

Island councillor Efrain Medina announced himself, "totally satisfied," that the two fairs held in Santa Cruz de Tenerife and San Cristobal de La Laguna had clocked up between them over 60,000 visitors. Medina affirmed that his contentment was shared by the craft specialists themselves, who were delighted with the high sales volume. The councillor underlined the excellence of the products on offer this year stating, "the quality and the innovation displayed in the craft products were notable and of course influenced the sales. The artisan who was innovative and presented new products sold a lot," he assured.

Thefts

Hotel security

• The head of security at a hotel in Playa de Las Américas has admitted to almost 30 thefts from guests' rooms in the last year.

The man was detained after police investigating the disappearance of valuables at the popular tourist hotel pinpointed his presence on all the days on which the thefts occurred. Police have recovered a substantial haul of stolen items, including laptops, cameras and jewellery taken from guests.

ISLAND CONNECTIONS

Circulation controlled by:  Distribución Gratuita

Publisher & Proprietor

Tina Straub, Joe Schacher
Island Connections S.L.
C.I.F.: B-38748315
Printed by Artes Gráficas del Atlántico S.A.
Dep. Legal: TF-287/93

© ISLAND CONNECTIONS NEWSPAPER

Is published and printed fortnightly by ISLAND CONNECTIONS S.L. Adverts, texts, photos or other parts of this publication are property of the publishers. They may not be used or reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any other form or means without the prior written permission of the publishers. This newspaper cannot be held responsible for the contents of articles supplied by our contributors or advertisers claims. The publisher reserves the right to refuse to publish adverts, texts or advertising features. Advertisements once contracted cannot be cancelled and have to be paid in full. The publishers can not be held responsible for variation on colour printed in this newspaper. Advertising conditions are to be obtained in our offices.

Managing Director
Joe Schacher
js@ic-news.com

Editor
Clio O'Flynn

Commercial Director
Henry Cruz
henrycruz@ic-news.com

Head Office Tenerife
C/ Francisco Feo Rodríguez, 6º
Las Chafiras 38620.
San Miguel de Abona.
Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain.

Island Connections Newspaper
<http://www.islandconnections.eu>

Daily News Site
<http://www.newscanarias.net>

Tenerife Office
Tel: 922 750 609 - 609 581 632
Fax: 922 795 810

Editorial Department:
editorial@ic-news.com

Classifieds Section:
classifieds@ic-news.com

Sales Department:
sales@ic-news.com

Design Department:
design@ic-news.com

General Information:
info@icmedia.eu

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday 9am -5pm

Gran Canaria
Tel: 928 353 279/ Fax: 928 359 744
grancanaria@ic-news.com

